play. It did not, and could not, even for once occur to me that my younger brother, of whom I have more than once made mention, could have been present in this party of masqueraders; but the one that they were holding chained, from so many directions, lo! it was that very vagabond brother of mine and none other! ! What could be more strange than this? This was a surprise party indeed! and no wonder that he should have appeared in such fantastic-ally coloured paints, as the principal masque-rader in the party. Who could have recognized him from out of the rest of the maskers, under his present disguise, unless he himself had come forward to make known his identity to me? After having exchanged a few words in this way* his play began and so he had to turn to the dance and keep time in the usual way as the Mohurrum players do, going round and round, taking poses in keeping with the beat of drums and the sound of tom-toms, which was indeed most interesting to the observers. I really wondered at the ease and skill

with which
he managed to go through the show,
as if he
were quite an expert at his business,
and it
looked almost a miracle, when and
how he had